

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the entire abstract page with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~In-line process and device for measuring the  
characteristics of a surface coating on a metallurgical  
product~~

To measure the characteristics of the surface coating ~~(1)~~ of a moving metal strip, such as the alliation level of a coating including zinc and iron, the ~~said~~ product is exposed to the radiation ~~(23)~~ of a radiative source ~~(24)~~ with a predetermined wavelength directed orthogonally to the surface of the product and the energy reflected by the ~~said~~ surface is measured also in a direction orthogonal to the surface so as to overcome reflectivity variations due to the morphological characteristics of the surface and these operations are performed with the help of off-the-shelf optical fibres previously stripped at their free ends ~~(21, 31)~~ of their normal optical focusing accessories so that they can be brought as near to each other as possible and placed parallel to each other.

~~FIG. 1~~